United Nations A/65/726–S/2011/68

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 38
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the Joint Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, following the Russian-Afghan summit talks held in Moscow on 20 and 21 January 2011 (see annex).

We would like to request your kind assistance in having the contents of the present letter as well as the Joint Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zahir **Tanin**
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

11-23348 (E) 150211 150211

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Annex to the letter dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on 20 and 21 January 2011.

During the visit, the two sides discussed in detail the status of bilateral cooperation and prospects for its development as well as ways of tackling regional and international challenges.

The Presidents noted the historically friendly nature of Russian-Afghan relations, based on a strong foundation of mutual respect, and called for the dynamic development of bilateral ties in the areas of trade, economic cooperation, science, culture and education as well as parliamentary dialogue and contacts between representatives of civil society and business.

The Russian side confirmed its commitment to the restoration of Afghanistan as a stable, independent and prosperous State free from such challenges to the region as terrorism and drug-related crime. It expressed its willingness to continue providing multifaceted assistance to achieve stability and sustainable economic development in Afghanistan.

The Russian Federation confirmed its support for the Kabul process and the decisions of the historic Kabul Conference, including the transfer of full responsibility for security in the country to the Afghan authorities.

The Presidents of the two countries expressed serious concern at the persistent threats in the region relating to terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. They noted the importance of increasing bilateral and multilateral cooperation to counter those threats, including through opportunities available within regional and international organizations, among them the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Heads of State exchanged views on the implementation of the Plan of Action of the SCO member States and Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, adopted at the Special Conference on Afghanistan held under the aegis of SCO in Moscow on 27 March 2009.

Characterizing drug-related crime as a serious threat to international peace and stability, the Presidents of the two countries noted that it was a priority to engage in joint efforts to combat such crime in an integrated manner throughout the chain of illicit drug trafficking, ranging from crop eradication to countering the production, smuggling and consumption of drugs as well as the supply of precursors. In that context, they underscored the importance of the preventive counter-narcotics operation Channel, in which Afghanistan had been invited to participate as an

observer. The Afghan side expressed gratitude to the Russian Federation for its assistance in combating the drug threat, including the training of counter-narcotics police officers for Afghanistan.

The Presidents welcomed the signing of an intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation agreement as an important step in the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

They expressed approval and support for the interest shown by Russian business circles in cooperating with the Afghan Government and business community to restore and reconstruct facilities of key importance to Afghanistan in the areas of transport, energy, natural resource management and urban development.

The Heads of State stressed the importance of developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and Afghanistan. In that connection, the Russian side expressed its willingness to support the development and subsequent implementation of the following priority projects for Afghanistan: the restoration and reconstruction of the Kabul building plant, the Nangarhar irrigation canal, the nitrogen fertilizer plant in Mazar-i-Sharif, the Salang Tunnel and the Kabul Technical University; the construction and equipping of auto mechanic trade schools in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Khost Province; the restoration of the Kabul grain elevator and the construction of new elevators in various provinces; the construction of the Sorubi-2 hydroelectric plant in Kabul Province and hydropower facilities and an electric power station in Kelagay, Baghlan Province; and the construction and equipping of a customs terminal in Hairaton.

The two sides expressed interest in strengthening regional economic cooperation, including through the implementation of important projects in the rail transport and energy sectors, particularly the CASA-1000 project for a system to transmit electricity from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan and the project for the construction of a Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, and called for support for the Russian Federation's participation in those projects in agreement with the other parties concerned.

Dmitry Medvedev gratefully accepted Hamid Karzai's invitation to visit Afghanistan.

20 January 2011

United Nations S/2011/69

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with regard to document S/2011/10 dated 11 January 2011 containing the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration. I have the honour to inform you that Portugal requests that the following items, listed in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned document, remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized:

80. Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones.

81. General issues relating to sanctions.

85. Strengthening international law: rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security.

86. Letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/186).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) José Filipe **Moraes Cabral**
Ambassador

11-23255 (E) 150211

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United Nations S/2011/70

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the summary statement on matters of which the Security Council is seized, and on the stage reached in their consideration.

I should like to notify you that the Government of the State of Kuwait wishes to see the following item retained in the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour **Al-Otaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-23523 (E) 170211

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United Nations A/65/729–S/2011/71

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2011
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 10 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a compla it against enemy Israeli forces which, on 17 January 2011, undertook fencing activity in the occupied Lebanese part of the village of Ghajar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-23419 (E) 150211 160211

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Annex to the identical letters dated 10 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Republic of Lebanon

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

At 4 p.m. on Monday, 17 January 2011, the Israeli enemy fenced off an area between points CP3 and CP4 in the occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar and, with a view to erecting a new fence in the region, installed stakes and three metre-high posts. They also brought in several vehicles and a prefabricated hut, which they positioned inside the village, opposite CP3. Any activity by the Israeli enemy in this area is considered to be a flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty and Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It also exposes the hostile intentions of Israel and refutes its claim that it will soon withdraw from the occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar.

United Nations S/2011/72

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2011

Original: English

Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1938 (2010) of 15 September 2010, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2011 and requested me to report on progress made in achieving the core benchmarks elaborated in my reports of 10 February 2009 (S/2009/86) and 10 June 2009 (S/2009/299), and on joint planning, with the Government of Liberia, for the transfer of security responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities, and to propose revised benchmarks measuring progress made in that regard. The present report contains the requested transition benchmarks and provides an update on major developments since my report of 11 August 2010 (S/2010/429).

II. Major developments

A. Political situation

2. During the reporting period, political developments in Liberia were dominated by preparations for the 2011 elections. In August 2010, the legislature adopted a joint resolution proposing amendments to the election-related provisions of the 1986 Constitution. These amendments include changing the requirement of the electoral system from an absolute to a simple majority for all elections except for president and vice-president; moving election day from October to November; and revising the residency clause for presidential and vice-presidential candidates from 10 to 5 consecutive years immediately prior to the elections. The Constitution requires that amendments be ratified in a referendum held at least a year after the legislature's action. After considerable discussion about the feasibility of holding the referendum before the 2011 elections, the National Elections Commission decided to schedule it for 23 August 2011, so that any approved amendments would apply to the current electoral process.

3. Meanwhile, political parties continued to strategically position themselves for the elections. The Unity Party, led by the President, finalized its merger with the Liberia Action Party and the Liberia Unification Party and, in October, officially nominated President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as its standard bearer. Opposition parties also continued to explore mergers and coalitions to enhance their prospects of

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presenting a credible challenge to the incumbent, but have faced challenges. In October, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) announced that it would pursue a merger with the Liberty Party, abandoning the four-party Coalition for Democratic Change that it had previously considered, but the party's leadership fragmented over the conditions of the merger, and negotiations remained inconclusive. Another opposition alliance, the National Democratic Coalition (NDC), was established, comprising some former prominent members of CDC, the National Patriotic Party and a number of smaller parties. After voter registration commenced, NDC brought a challenge to the Supreme Court, seeking to halt the process on the grounds that a constitutional provision, requiring constituency demarcation before voter registration, had been bypassed. It is still unclear whether the Court will entertain this petition.

4. The National Elections Commission certified three new political parties, the National Union for Democratic Progress, the Movement for Progressive Change and the Original Congress Party, bringing to 20 the number of certified parties, and two additional parties are in the process of being certified. The Inter-Party Consultative Committee met on a monthly basis to forge a common understanding on election-related issues, and the Committee prepared a revised code of conduct for political parties, which has been signed by 17 parties so far, a positive indication of the commitment to peaceful elections. President Johnson-Sirleaf initiated bilateral consultations with prominent opposition leaders, as part of confidence-building measures to facilitate peaceful elections.

5. On 13 November, President Johnson-Sirleaf placed her Cabinet on administrative leave, explaining that, as her administration was entering a critical period, she wanted to assess each minister's performance before reinstating them. The President reconstituted her Cabinet in December, reinstating 14 of 22 ministers, reassigning one, and appointing new Ministers for Foreign Affairs; Lands, Mines and Energy; Posts and Telecommunications; and Transport, as well as a new Chairman of the National Investment Commission. The President's decision elicited mixed reactions from opposition parties and the public.

6. Limited progress was made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In her second quarterly progress report to the legislature on implementation of the recommendations, submitted in August, President Johnson-Sirleaf proposed tasking for various bodies but offered few specifics on how implementation would be taken forward. After considerable delay, the Senate confirmed the nominees for the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in September. In addition to its human rights mandate, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act gives the Independent National Commission on Human Rights a key role in following up the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. The President tasked the Independent National Commission on Human Rights with developing a road map for implementation, and her third quarterly report, dated 14 January 2011, outlined the proposals of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights. These emphasized consultations leading to the design of a national reconciliation road map; the launch of Palava Hut discussions, a mechanism for perpetrators to seek public forgiveness; and a study intended to lead to a reparations strategy. Meanwhile, on 21 January, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of a petitioner recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for public sanction and

30 years debarment from public office, who claimed that the recommendation was inconsistent with the constitutional right to due process.

B. Security situation

7. The security situation in Liberia remained generally stable but fragile. Disputes over access to land and resources, as well as ethnic and communal tensions, continued to present significant challenges. Security risks are also posed by high unemployment, severely limiting livelihood opportunities for ex-combatants and high-risk youth, many of whom resort to illegal activities. Also of concern are enduring ethno-religious divides, particularly in Lofa County, where violence broke out between two communities in Zorzor in December, prompted by the invitation to a witch doctor to practice in the communities.

8. Disputes arising from the development of concessions and land issues constituted potential threats. In September, a labour dispute at the Liberia Agricultural Company rubber plantation in Grand Bassa County escalated into a riot involving more than 2,000 persons. On 16 September, community members at the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation in Maryland County staged a demonstration against the takeover by an Ivorian-based company, while on 25 November, former workers of the Cavalla Rubber Corporation, also in Maryland County, demonstrated to demand redundancy benefits. On 2 September, workers of a rubber farm in Margibi County were attacked by members of a neighbouring village over a land sale, resulting in several injuries.

9. Some security incidents related to electoral preparations occurred, demonstrating the potential for small-scale incidents to rapidly escalate in the highly charged electoral context. On 28 December, in Grand Kru County, youths demonstrated at a local school where National Elections Commission officials were conducting training, claiming irregularities in the hiring of voter registration officers. On 31 December, members of CDC became violent during a march in Monrovia, stoning police vehicles when officers attempted to redirect their route.

10. Maintaining law and order remained a challenge, with frequent reported incidents of rape and armed robbery, as well as the prevalence of drugs and mob violence. An increasing number of incidents involve firearms. Seizures of locally manufactured single-barrel shot guns from Guinea have increased. In the absence of firearms control legislation, the President signed an executive order on 26 October banning the use of firearms by private citizens, excluding hunting guns. Mob violence continued to be a concern with four incidents occurring in September and October against police officers, and in December, UNMIL had to intervene to prevent a crowd from burning down a police depot.

C. Economic situation

11. Recovery from the global economic crisis continued, with growth in 2010 expected at 6.3 per cent, up from 4.6 per cent in 2009, driven by expansion in the agriculture, mining and construction sectors, as well as the recovery of global commodity prices. Growth in 2011 is projected at 8.8 per cent, reflecting an expectation of further expansion in these sectors.

12. The fifth review under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement of the International Monetary Fund was completed in December, and public external debt was reduced to an estimated $87.1 million from $1.67 billion during 2010. The national budget for the 2010/11 fiscal year of $369 million was adopted by the legislature in September. Direct budget support increased, totalling $58.5 million in the present fiscal year. The Ministry of Finance has begun releasing quarterly donor aid reports and records in line with the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness.

13. Inflation, which was 7.6 per cent in 2009, is expected to stabilize at 7.2 per cent for 2010. Unemployment and underemployment are still major concerns, with most livelihood opportunities being in the informal sector. In September, the World Bank launched a three-year project, with a budget of $16 million to create 45,000 short-term jobs and provide vocational skills training for 4,000 youths. The Government has signed five iron ore concessions with an estimated investment value of $10 billion, which are expected to create some 13,000 jobs and improve rural infrastructure. The first shipment of iron ore is expected in 2011, but full investment and job creation will take place over 25 years. Also, offshore oil exploration along the Liberian coast is expected to begin. In September, the legislature approved an agreement with Chevron Corporation covering 9,600 square kilometres.

14. In October, the Government held its annual poverty reduction strategy review retreat in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, to take stock of progress, prioritize interventions, and develop strategies to maximize achievements by the strategy's end date, which was extended from June to December 2011. During the retreat, each ministry undertook to develop 90-day action plans covering the remaining period.

D. Regional aspects

15. The completion of the political transition in Guinea during the period significantly lessened tensions along Liberia's border with Guinea. The Government of Liberia and UNMIL continued to conduct joint border operations with the Governments of Guinea and Sierra Leone.

16. Developments related to the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire posed a serious threat to the security of the entire subregion, particularly Liberia, and are being monitored closely. Liberia has received most of the Ivorian refugees, who have been absorbed peacefully. Amid reports that Liberian mercenaries were involved in Côte d'Ivoire, President Johnson-Sirleaf made two public statements in December warning citizens not to participate in the crisis. However, there are reports of new recruitment of combatants from the Liberian side of the border. The Government and UNMIL have increased their patrolling and presence along the Ivorian border to monitor recruitment activities and the possible return of any of the estimated 2,000 Liberian former fighters associated with Ivorian militias, who remained in western Côte d'Ivoire after the Liberian conflict.

17. Liberia remains vulnerable to drug trafficking, and small quantities of cocaine and heroin are regularly found by Liberian agencies. Domestic production of marijuana was apparently greater than consumption, suggesting possible cross-border trafficking. Within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, the Government signed a project proposal in November for the establishment of a transnational crime unit to address organized crime and drug trafficking.

E. Humanitarian situation

18. The ongoing influx of Ivorian refugees since November, primarily into Nimba County, but also into Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties, presents major challenges for refugees and border communities absorbing them. As at 7 February 2011, 36,318 Ivorian refugees were registered in Liberia by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The construction of a refugee camp in Nimba County is under way, and a second camp is being planned. The inter-agency contingency plan was triggered in mid-December to enable a comprehensive response to a potential influx of 50,000 refugees. An emergency humanitarian action plan for Liberia, requesting $55 million, was launched in January. UNHCR, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, is managing the refugee influx into Liberia and is assisting national authorities to monitor population movements along the borders. The humanitarian country team also discussed the impact on host communities should the influx continue at the current rate.

III. Mandate implementation

A. Security sector reform

National security strategy and architecture

19. The poverty reduction strategy retreat in October, referred to in paragraph 14 of the report, helped to identify and focus attention on a number of critical outstanding requirements for security sector reform, particularly infrastructure, logistics and mobility. There has been overall progress in implementing the various security agencies' strategic plans, though more is needed to ensure completion of the national security sector reform strategy and its implementation matrix, much of which is donor-dependent. While some security-related allocations were increased in the 2010/11 national budget, security agencies are still not receiving sufficient resources for their progressive growth and development.

20. There is growing recognition that rule-of-law issues, especially an efficient criminal justice system, need to be addressed comprehensively, including in the context of security sector reform. The Government of Liberia and the United Nations are developing a joint justice and security programme that will partly address this challenge, as will the Peacebuilding Commission's focus on decentralized security and justice service delivery.

21. Progress was made in rolling out county security councils, which have been established so far in four counties. Roll-out in the others will continue should funding become available. However, the National Security Reform and Intelligence Bill remained pending before the legislature. The 2006 draft gun control legislation was updated by a joint Government of Liberia/United Nations technical group, which will soon be submitted to the legislature.

Armed Forces of Liberia

22. Fifty United States military mentors continued to support the Armed Forces of Liberia to build a professional and capable force, including developing army staff to assume greater command responsibilities, improving operational relationships with

the Liberia National Police and matching budget-to-mission requirements. At present, the army is implementing an annual training plan of six training cycles, which so far has focused on individual and basic skills, occupational specialty training and small unit collective skills training. UNMIL has provided the new army with training in preventive medicine, radio operations, unexploded ordnance identification and reporting, civil-military cooperation and other areas.

23. The new army is officially scheduled to attain full operational capability by mid-2012. However, there remain obstacles to meeting this timeline, including delays in endorsing the national defence strategy, raising uncertainties about the army's future strategic direction and use. Challenges are also posed by insufficient budgetary allocations for the army to maintain its infrastructure, logistics and equipment, or procure new assets. Meanwhile, planning continued for the army to conduct joint operations with UNMIL, which will provide essential confidence-building for the force and the population. Incidents of misconduct by members of the new army continued to cause concern. On 25 December, two soldiers were arrested for assaulting police officers and, in January, there were three separate incidents of army personnel assaulting police and stealing equipment, including one in which eight personnel broke into a police station in Monrovia while in uniform.

24. Progress is being made in the development of a small coast guard with the support of the United States and, in January, the Coast Guard received specialized training on equipment handling. Two out of the projected four vessels have been acquired so far, and overall training is scheduled for completion in mid-2012.

Liberia National Police

25. The development of the Liberia National Police continued, with emphasis on training and equipping the armed Police Support Unit. The development and deployment of the Unit throughout the country is critical, especially for securing the elections and for the eventual assumption by Liberian authorities of UNMIL security responsibilities. The first class of the current round of training graduated in October, increasing the Unit's operational strength to 306 officers, out of the 2011 target of 1,000, including 19 women. The second class is under way, comprising 129 officers, including 5 women. Salary incentives were provided in January 2011 for personnel of the specialized police units, including the 344-strong specialized Emergency Response Unit, which could increase interest in recruitment. However, the procurement of basic equipment continued to lag behind training, leaving graduates with limited resources to carry out their duties.

26. Some institutional progress was achieved in line with the Liberia National Police. Through bilateral support and UNMIL quick-impact projects, the construction and rehabilitation of stations and barracks continued with the completion of 21 projects, and the construction of one regional headquarters completed. In October, the Ministry of Education issued the National Police Training Academy a permanent permit, a step towards its recognition as the primary institution for training security agencies. Also, the Women and Child Protection Section of the police service instituted protocols for addressing complaints regarding missing children. However, capacity shortfalls remained in the vital areas of administration, logistics, mobility, finance and community relations. Meanwhile, an increase has been noted in the number of investigations into allegations of crime or corruption against police officers.

27. In September, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization officially launched its strategic plan, outlining reform priorities and development needs. However, its implementation remains largely dependent on donor support. The Bureau is emerging as an important player in the security sector, particularly in the light of the situation along Liberia's border with Côte d'Ivoire and the need for enhanced border management to mitigate trafficking. While the immigration and police services cooperated effectively in monitoring the border with Côte d'Ivoire, including joint patrols, the operations demonstrated the dependence of both agencies on UNMIL for mobility and communications.

28. The Peacebuilding Commission is supporting a project to establish five regional security and justice "hubs" around the country, which will include police and immigration personnel. The police and the immigration service both have regional administrative and operational centres within their organizational structures that have never been operationalized. The hubs will help to enable that process, which will be particularly critical for the police to effectively extend command and control and operational reach beyond Monrovia.

B. Strengthening judicial, legal and corrections institutions

29. Limitations in human capacity, infrastructure and equipment in the judicial, legal and corrections sectors continued to impede justice delivery. These persisting challenges were acknowledged by the Government during its poverty reduction strategy retreat, and were prioritized by the Peacebuilding Commission, as described in paragraph 66 below.

30. The Ministry of Justice and the Law Reform Commission provided leadership in following up on the national conference on access to justice that was held last April, and are planning to conduct nationwide consultations early this year to further inform the development of policy for harmonizing the formal and customary justice systems. However, access to justice remained a critical challenge, as the criminal justice system is under-resourced and lacks qualified personnel. Consequently, there remained a severe backlog of cases and 81 per cent of the prison population consisted of pretrial detainees. Outdated laws, such as on the limited jurisdiction of magistrates' courts, contributed to delays.

31. While there was a 3 per cent reduction in pretrial detention during the period, deficiencies in investigation and prosecution resulted in the release of detainees on procedural grounds. Government-led measures are ongoing to address system-wide weaknesses, including a pilot case management project expected to begin in early 2011. Meanwhile, the Law Reform Commission has undertaken a review of a number of key laws. Diversion programmes are also being developed as an alternative to incarceration, and newly trained probation officers will be deployed in early 2011. The Judicial Institute continued to make steady progress, and is now conducting regular training for trial judges, prosecutors and public defenders.

32. Efforts continued to improve the prevention, response and management of sexual and gender-based violence, including through the United Nations/Government of Liberia joint programme on sexual and gender-based violence. However, the criminal justice system struggled to deal with them effectively. The specialized prosecution unit for sexual violence was compelled to request the designated court

for sexual and gender-based violence to dismiss a significant number of rape cases owing to lack of evidence.

33. Security at corrections facilities remained a challenge owing to weak infrastructure, limited staff and poor capacity, which were exacerbated by low staff morale and high rates of absenteeism due to salary delays. During the reporting period, 10 escape incidents involving a total of 24 inmates were recorded, and disturbances occurred at prisons in Monrovia, Gbarnga, Kakata and Buchanan, requiring the intervention of the Police Support Unit, with UNMIL support. Calm was only restored in each instance following assurances that inmate demands, including for medical care and an end to prolonged pretrial detention, would be addressed. As part of its strategic plan, the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation initiated some rehabilitation projects, including training in agriculture and other skills. The Bureau also became less dependent on the international community in providing food to inmates.

C. Human rights

34. The Government continued its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights. As described in paragraph 6, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights was established, representing a significant development in view of its mandated responsibility as the publicly accessible institution to address human rights complaints and violations. To address the plight of children in care, the Government has taken action to deinstitutionalize children with next of kin, close some substandard institutions, and accredit and monitor suitable care institutions.

35. Challenges persisted in several areas, including with respect to institutionalizing human rights standards and principles. The National Human Rights Action Plan Steering Committee made some progress on the action plan, but prioritized preparations for Liberia's universal periodic review, which took place in November. The United Nations Human Rights Council made 113 recommendations during the review, 72 of which the Government supported. The Government response to the remaining recommendations, including those relating to the death penalty, female genital mutilation and trial by ordeal, as well as issues pertaining to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, were deferred until the Council meeting in March 2011.

D. Consolidation of State authority

36. Some progress was made in consolidating State authority throughout the country, but the Government still faces challenges in delivering services outside of Monrovia, owing to persistent logistical problems and insufficient operational budgets. Local officials, with the exception of those in the southeastern counties, which are difficult to access, are becoming less dependent on UNMIL for mobility and communication. Improvements were also made in the timely payment of salaries and the increased presence of ministry officials. While county development steering committees, the mechanisms for implementing the poverty reduction strategy at the county level, are becoming institutionalized, irregular participation in coordination meetings, weak reporting, and a lack of effective monitoring mechanisms remain major challenges. At the same time, a lack of appropriate

guidelines and action against misuse of county and social development funds continued to undermine confidence in local authorities.

37. Infrastructure development, particularly of roads, remains central to the extension of State authority and economic revitalization of rural areas. UNMIL continued to rehabilitate sections of primary and secondary roads critical for its operations, and spot maintenance was carried out with funding from the World Bank, which is also funding the rehabilitation of major roads and bridges. On 7 January, the Minister of Public Works launched a project funded by the African Development Bank to rehabilitate the road linking River Gee and Maryland Counties, which will connect the southeast to the rest of Liberia.

E. Governance

38. Despite efforts towards strengthening governance reform processes and monitoring performance, legal bottlenecks in the prosecution of corruption cases continued to hamper effective implementation of the Government's anti-corruption policy. In October, President Johnson-Sirleaf recommended that punitive measures be taken against several prominent individuals, including a sitting senator and a former minister of internal affairs, in connection with allegations that they had been involved in a fraudulent carbon credit deal. Follow-up by the Ministry of Justice is still pending in that matter, and no high-profile officials from the current administration have yet been convicted, reinforcing public perception that the Government is weak on corruption.

39. Constraints were also experienced in follow-up of the General Auditing Commission's audit of the county development fund, which was frozen by the President in August owing to reports of corruption and mismanagement. The prosecution of government officials for financial impropriety remained a challenge, and the passage of the bill establishing a code of conduct for public officials, which would widen the scope of illegal acts, remained pending.

40. The operational capacity of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission continued to improve, and the Commission conducted sensitization activities around the country. The President has proposed an expansion of the role of the Commission to include prosecutorial powers, which could expedite the required process.

41. Both the Law Reform Commission and the Land Commission became operational, with the latter establishing its secretariat, securing funding, and developing a five-year reform programme and communications strategy. However, resource constraints and weak coordination with land administration agencies could slow implementation. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Review Task Force remained inactive, owing to a lack of budgetary allocations. The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative enhanced financial transparency in the mining, forestry, agriculture and oil sectors. The majority of reports on company payments and audited receipts in preparation for the third reconciliation report were collected.

42. The bloated civil service remained a challenge for the Government, which is vetting the list of civil servants to eliminate "ghost workers". Meanwhile, the legislature continued to face challenges in carrying out its representation, law-making and oversight functions. The Liberia Democratic Institute noted in its quarterly Legislative Report Card, one of civil society's monitoring tools, that bills

concerning concessions or other economic matters were processed faster than others, and recommended that lawmakers refocus efforts on pro-people legislation.

43. In September, the Governance Commission and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs introduced a concept paper on national visioning entitled "Liberia Rising 2030". A possible successor to the poverty reduction strategy, the paper seeks to consolidate good governance and build a reconciled and unified national identity through citizenship and decentralization, while supporting economic growth and long-term development. Since September, the Cabinet has endorsed a road map for formulating the vision, including planning for national consultations. A secretariat has been established in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and President Johnson-Sirleaf is expected to appoint a steering committee in early 2011 to guide the process

F. Management of natural resources

44. Progress in controlling diamond mining and trade was limited. The plan of the Presidential Task Force on Diamonds for the implementation of recommendations made by the Kimberley Process review mission and the Panel of Experts on Liberia (see S/2009/640) experienced delays owing to weak leadership of relevant government officials. Presidential approval of a proposal to transform the diamond task force into a precious minerals oversight committee remained outstanding. Meanwhile, the enforcement of mining laws and the curbing of illegal practices remained a challenge, though progress was made in the registration of small-scale miners, with the number of mining licences increasing from 300 in December 2009 to 470 in December 2010. Efforts are being made to expedite the surveying of exploration and mining licences to complete the Mineral Cadastre Information Management System database and the drafting of mining regulations.

45. Further progress was made in commercial forestry, which is expected to generate an estimated $15 million in government revenue this fiscal year. Thirteen timber companies are operating, covering 1 million hectares across 11 counties. Liberia and the European Commission concluded the fourth round of voluntary partnership agreement negotiations, so that only legally harvested timber is exported to Europe. Meanwhile, the Forestry Development Authority concluded countrywide consultations on regulations for the implementation of the Community Rights Law. While Liberia is building on established partnerships to develop appropriate forest management strategies to provide benefits to forest communities, some communities have complained about not benefiting from social agreements with logging companies, and have petitioned the legislature to revise agreements and increase the community share of land rental fees from 30 to 60 per cent.

46. In September, the Government signed a concession agreement valued at $1.6 billion to establish palm oil plantations and processing plants in Grand Kru, Maryland, River Cess, River Gee and Sinoe Counties. Though concessions create some formal employment, legal and regulatory frameworks need to be strengthened, as does the oversight of concession implementation, to more effectively address emerging labour, land and social conflicts.

47. During the reporting period, efforts were made by local officials and security personnel to remove illegal occupants from Sapo National Park, where thousands were reportedly engaging in illicit gold mining, hunting and logging. While most

camps are now reportedly vacant, many former occupants are believed to have settled near the park, where they have few alternative livelihood options, which could undermine the sustainability of the action.

G. Preparations for elections

48. Most stakeholders have welcomed the decision to hold a national referendum to amend three election-related provisions of the Constitution in August. Although holding a referendum at the height of the rainy season will present formidable logistical challenges, if approved, the modifications would facilitate not only the current electoral process, but also future elections.

49. The voter registration exercise has been an important test of the capacity of the National Elections Commission and other national institutions to conduct a major nationwide event. The Commission established 1,780 voter registration centres, trained staff, distributed materials, and conducted civic education in collaboration with civil society organizations. The Liberia National Police provided security for the voter registration exercise, and worked together with the Commission to define security requirements for the entire electoral period, including with respect to manpower, mobility and deployment. Registration began as scheduled on 10 January, with no major security incidents and only minor challenges, including late openings in some remote locations and logistical problems. In view of these challenges, the Commission extended the registration period until 12 February, from the original planned closing date of 6 February.

50. The United Nations system in Liberia has established a task force to coordinate overall United Nations support to the electoral process. UNMIL provided logistical support for the delivery of voter registration materials to remote locations, and assisted the national police in developing an integrated security and contingency plan. The United Nations and other partners are also working closely with the National Elections Commission on measures to strengthen women's participation in the electoral process.

51. Donors have responded positively to fund the $46 million overall electoral budget that covers electoral operations, personnel costs and capacity-building activities. The Government has committed $15 million, the donor fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will cover $27 million, and a bilateral donor has provided $4 million. However, there remains a shortfall of $4 million, to be covered by the UNDP-managed fund, and efforts are being made to fill that gap. Meanwhile, Liberian authorities are working to find funding to cover the cost of security personnel during the elections, currently estimated at around $700,000. To support the transparent and accountable use of election funds, the General Auditing Commission is assisting the National Elections Commission to establish budget and financial management systems.

H. Integration of the United Nations system

52. A high-level meeting comprising representatives from the Government, the United Nations and key donors was held in October to officially launch the initiative "One UN", delivering as one in Liberia. A joint steering committee, comprising four representatives each from the Government and the United Nations and three from

the donor community, was established to guide the reform process. The Committee will be co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs and my Deputy Special Representative for Recovery and Governance, who is also the resident and humanitarian coordinator for Liberia.

53. In December, an independent review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) noted its contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, but also identified limitations in its use as a management and coordination tool. Recommendations will inform future UNDAF planning and "delivering as one" reforms.

IV. Cross-cutting issues

A. Public information

54. The United Nations family worked closely with the Government and other partners to implement the second phase of the national anti-rape campaign, launched simultaneously with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign. The former involved sensitizing local communities on community policing and access to assistance, such as the women and children protection centres of the Liberia National Police. Also, the Government and UNMIL jointly organized the annual talent competition "A Star Is Born". UNMIL Radio launched a new programme to support the electoral process, *The Ballot Box*, focusing on civic education. Outreach campaigns were also conducted on HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation and abuse, and other issues.

B. Gender

55. Ahead of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, Liberian women leaders met with my Special Representative as part of the United Nations system-wide review of progress in implementing the resolution on Global Open Day. They identified sexual violence, peacebuilding and security sector reform as the critical concerns of Liberian women. These areas were contained in a policy statement as part of the global United Nations review of progress in implementing that resolution.

C. HIV/AIDS

56. UNMIL conducted awareness and prevention training on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections for newly deployed peacekeepers, offered voluntary HIV testing, distributed condoms and post-exposure prophylaxis, and conducted a behaviour change campaign.

D. Conduct and discipline

57. UNMIL continued efforts towards full compliance with my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse through preventative measures, such as induction and refresher training for all United Nations personnel, spot checks of

off-limits establishments and awareness-raising on sexual exploitation and abuse among local communities. During the period under review, 2,405 United Nations personnel received training on all conduct and discipline issues and integrated training on the zero-tolerance policy, stress management and HIV/AIDS awareness. UNMIL also trained 870 members of communities in close proximity to United Nations installations on awareness and community-based reporting mechanisms.

58. During the reporting period, 21 allegations of misconduct of a serious nature were reported, including 8 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, a number similar to the previous reporting period. There was a decrease in minor infractions.

E. Security and safety of United Nations personnel

59. Crime continued to pose the greatest security threat to United Nations personnel and property, especially in Monrovia. Three incidents of armed robbery targeting United Nations personnel were reported during the period, in addition to 53 non-weapon-related crimes, including burglary and assault. During the reporting period, one UNMIL national staff member, six military personnel and one police officer died as a result of illness or accidents.

V. Mission deployment

A. Military component

60. The authorized strength of UNMIL stands at 8,102 military personnel, including 7,952 troops in Liberia and a 150-strong military guard force deployed at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. The force headquarters is based in Monrovia, and there are six infantry battalions deployed in two sectors, in addition to a battalion-sized quick reaction force. There are 158 women in the force.

61. In my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 28 December 2009 (S/2009/679), I advised that the continued deployment of the guard force at the premises of the Special Court was required to secure its facilities and the remaining personnel and sensitive archives. In recent months, the Special Court has undertaken a number of steps to complete its activities in Sierra Leone, including the transfer of its archives to The Hague in December. Prior to that transfer, on 13 October 2010, the Registrar of the Special Court informed the United Nations Secretariat that, following the relocation of its archives and the further reduction of international staff, the deployment of the guard force at the premises of the Special Court would no longer be required after January or February 2011. In view of the determination made by the Special Court, and following consultations with Sierra Leonean authorities, I informed the President of the Security Council in my letter dated 11 February 2011 (S/2011/74) that preparations had been initiated for the withdrawal of the UNMIL guard force, which will be completed in early March.

62. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1609 (2005) and 1938 (2010), UNMIL provided reinforcement for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, temporarily redeploying three infantry companies and an aviation unit, consisting of two military utility helicopters, in accordance with resolutions 1951 (2010), 1962 (2010) and 1967 (2011).

B. Police component

63. As at 1 February, the UNMIL police strength stood at 1,327, out of an authorized ceiling of 1,375, including 472 police advisers, 842 officers in seven formed police units and 13 immigration advisers. There are 184 women in the police component. The authorized UNMIL police ceiling also includes 32 uniformed corrections personnel, of which 28, including 4 women, are presently deployed. Three formed police units are deployed in Monrovia and one unit each in Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties.

64. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1938 (2010), UNMIL continued to help in building the institutional capacity of the Liberia National Police, which is necessary for the national police to reach a level of sustained operational effectiveness. The UNMIL police component also began the process of seeking highly technical advisory capacities needed to support the further institutional development of the national police, including civilian expertise in the areas of administration, communications, criminal investigation, finance, institutional capacity-building, logistics, project management and public information.

VI. Peacebuilding Commission

65. In September, the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission was formed and the Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations was appointed as Chair. In November, the Chair visited Liberia to consult with key stakeholders and participated in the formal groundbreaking of a regional security and justice hub in Gbarnga funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. On 15 November, a Peacebuilding Commission statement of mutual commitments was adopted in Monrovia with the participation of President Johnson-Sirleaf, focusing on the priorities of support to the security sector, rule of law and national reconciliation, which are essential for peace consolidation in Liberia. On the basis of the statement of mutual commitments, the three-year Peacebuilding Fund priority plan for Liberia was endorsed in January 2011.

VII. Transition planning

66. In September, the joint transition working group, comprised of Government and United Nations representatives, prepared a draft comprehensive situational and threat assessment, outlining the security environment and an initial review of basic capability gaps, which was considered by the transition core group and the National Security Council in December. At that time, the National Security Council established task groups to conduct detailed technical gap analyses in the areas of border security and airports; law and order; security of assets and VIPs; and logistics.

67. These groups began the process of dividing all UNMIL security tasks into the following three broad categories: tasks that could be handed over given current national capabilities; tasks that could be handed over after the implementation of planned or ongoing national capacity enhancements; and tasks that are beyond national capacity without the provision of considerable additional resources. Once

that process has been completed, and receives the endorsement of the National Security Council, development of the transition plan will begin. I hope to be able to provide further information about the plan in my next report.

68. In its resolution 1938 (2010), the Security Council requested that the current benchmarks for the UNMIL drawdown phase be revised to reflect those benchmarks considered necessary for a successful transition, including the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities. These transition benchmarks are set out in the annex to the present report.

VIII. Observations

69. Liberia has reached a critical juncture with the start of the electoral process. I am encouraged by the peaceful voter registration process, and wish to commend the national institutions involved in organizing and securing the exercise, with the support of the United Nations. The success of the elections will be largely determined by their credibility. It is important that the National Elections Commission remains objective, transparent and balanced, and maintains a level playing field, while adhering to the electoral calendar. Moreover, it is paramount that political personalities take responsibility for their words and actions, which will help ensure a political climate conducive to credible, peaceful elections and the smooth transfer of power. This would attest to the tremendous progress the country has made in the last seven years.

70. I also encourage national authorities to conduct early and intensive civic and voter education campaigns to ensure that all eligible voters are fully informed of their choices, both for the referendum and the elections, and the process for participating. I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis on the participation of women. Meanwhile, the political, security and logistical challenges should not be underestimated and early planning and coordination will be essential.

71. While progress continues in developing the security and justice sectors, accelerated support for the security sector will be an essential aspect of consolidating the fragile peace in Liberia, and considerable work remains to be done in view of the eventual handover of UNMIL security responsibilities to national authorities. Concerted efforts are required to fill critical capacity gaps in the Liberian security and justice sector, identified in the joint Government/United Nations transition planning process, with coordinated financial and technical support from key partners. It is vital that core pieces of security sector reform-related legislation be passed as a matter of priority. I would urge Liberia's partners to provide generous financial assistance through mechanisms aligned with national priorities, such as the Peacebuilding Fund and the UNDP Justice and Security Trust Fund. I am hopeful that the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commissions in Liberia will offer tangible added value in the priority areas of security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation, which would also support a successful transition of key security and other responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities.

72. In that regard, the joint planning under way by the Government and the United Nations for the eventual transition of the peacekeeping operation must remain a priority. It will be crucial that determined efforts are made towards the achievement of the transition benchmarks annexed to the present report, which seek to elaborate

on those critical tasks that must be achieved in order to effect a responsible transition, as they hold the key to a smooth and sustainable security handover. I strongly encourage the Government of Liberia to fully engage in the transition planning process, since government leadership will help to better shape and define the actions that will need to be taken.

73. I welcome the long-awaited establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, which is vital to the national reconciliation process and to Liberia meeting its international human rights obligations. Now that the Commission is operational, I urge the Government to swiftly move forward with specific planning towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including creating structures to comprehensively address institutional reform, and taking other areas of the report forward.

74. I am concerned that legal bottlenecks and other constraints have hindered progress in the fight against corruption. Increased political will is needed to ensure the effective prosecution of outstanding cases. I therefore call upon the Government to systemize good governance and uphold the rule of law so that it might overcome its credibility gap with respect to impunity for corruption.

75. Economic growth and increased foreign investment in Liberia are encouraging signs that the country is on the right track to economic recovery, including increasing employment and government revenue, vital for effective social and other service delivery. At the same time, it is important that the Government ensures sufficient oversight of the implementation of concession agreements, so as to mitigate labour and land disputes frequently arising from their development or expansion. I am encouraged by efforts made so far in this regard, and call on the national authorities to enhance efforts in this area.

76. The troubling developments in Côte d'Ivoire risk undermining the security of the subregion. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Liberia for graciously hosting tens of thousands of Ivorian refugees, mostly women and children, fleeing the turmoil in their own country. The burden placed on Liberia as a result of this serious humanitarian situation is considerable. I am calling on donors to respond generously to the Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan for Liberia, so that there are adequate resources to respond to the crisis. I welcome the proactive efforts of the Government and UNMIL to monitor the situation along the border, and call for continued vigilance to ensure that there is no spillover of the violence. I am troubled by reports that Liberian mercenaries are involved in the Ivorian crisis, and welcome President Johnson-Sirleaf's public stance against any possible recruitment.

77. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Special Representative for Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, and UNMIL civilian and uniformed personnel for their contribution to peace consolidation in Liberia. I would also like to thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the International Contact Group on Liberia, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, multilateral and bilateral donors, and international and local non-governmental organizations, for their commitment and contributions to sustain peace and support development in Liberia.

Annex

UNMIL transition benchmarks

The United Nations strategic goal in Liberia is to assist the Government of Liberia to consolidate peace and achieve a steady state of security with national institutions that are able to maintain security and stability independently of a peacekeeping mission.

Core benchmarks[a]	Indicators of progress
Completion and implementation of a strategy and plan for the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities	A situational assessment is conducted by the Government of Liberia and the United Nations, including a nationwide threat assessment and mapping of existing national security capabilities and gaps. Specific critical capacity gaps that must be filled prior to the UNMIL withdrawal are identified. A strategic approach to the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities is developed by the Government of Liberia and the United Nations.
	A detailed plan for the progressive handover of security responsibilities to national authorities is developed, including criteria for handing over responsibility for security in a phased manner.
	Vital national installations are secured by national authorities.
Institutionalization of the national security architecture in line with the national security strategy	Essential legislation is adopted, including the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act.
	The national defence strategy is approved and implemented.
	National budgetary allocation for the security sector is progressively increased alongside increased international support to specifically enhance the capacity of the security sector through logistics, mobility and infrastructure.
	Civilian oversight of the security sector is strengthened, including enhanced effectiveness of existing legislative security committees and the establishment of mechanisms for civil society engagement.
National security institutions effectively maintain law and order	Essential logistics, mobility, communications and infrastructure for the Liberia National Police, including its specialized units, are established and sustained nationwide.
	Institutional development and administration of the Liberia National Police is enhanced for greater accountability and effectiveness.

	1,000 Liberia National Police Police Support Unit officers are trained, armed, equipped and deployed throughout the country. The Liberia National Police Police Support Unit is declared operational.[b]
	The Liberia National Police Emergency Response Unit is declared operational and is equipped to respond to security challenges in rural and urban areas.
	Command and control of the Liberia National Police, including its specialized units, are enhanced and decentralized.
	The strength of the Liberia National Police is reviewed and adjusted and posts rationalized to ensure effective coverage throughout the country.
	The National Police Training Academy provides effective training to statutory law enforcement agencies.
	Capacity for routine security of the national prisons, including response to disturbances, is developed and effective.
	Sustained progress is made in the implementation of strategic plans of the Liberia National Police and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
Enhanced national capacity to secure and control the borders	The Armed Forces of Liberia completes its annual training plan, including planned joint training with UNMIL.
	The Armed Forces of Liberia conducts border patrols independently of UNMIL.
	The Armed Forces of Liberia is declared operational at the battalion level, including its service support units.
	The Liberian Coast Guard is at a minimum operating level, including the provision of basic level training and vital equipment.
	Essential logistics, mobility, communications and infrastructure for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization are put in place, alongside an operational plan to ensure that capability can be sustained over time.
	The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization officers are trained, equipped and deployed to 36 official border crossing points.
	Sustained progress is made in implementation of the strategic plan of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.
	A transnational crime unit is established and achieves operational readiness.

Increased effectiveness of State authority throughout Liberia	Government of Liberia officials are able to access key parts of the country through enhanced mobility of its personnel, including through vital infrastructure development.
	County administration offices continue to develop operational capacity.
	Five regional security and justice hubs are established.
	Basic security structures are established and operational at the county level, including county security councils.
Conduct of peaceful, credible and accepted national elections in 2011	The National Elections Commission electoral timeline is maintained, and all critical events are successfully carried out.
	National security agencies provide the first line of security for electoral activities, including the elections.
	Peaceful and credible general elections and related run-offs are conducted.
	There is a peaceful transition to the democratically elected Government.

Contextual benchmarks[c]	**Indicators of progress**
Enhanced access to justice and effectiveness of the criminal justice system	The presence of criminal justice components (i.e., police, prosecution, defence, judiciary and corrections) is established in all counties with personnel, equipment and facilities. Essential legislative reform is completed as recommended by the Law Reform Commission and is undertaken in conformity with international human rights standards.
	System-wide case management mechanisms and record-keeping systems are developed and functioning. Legal training and educational institutions are established and operational to provide training to judges, magistrates, defence counsel, prosecutors, law students and the Bar.
	Accountability mechanisms are established for money paid or entrusted to courts.
	The Bureau of Corrections develops capacity to provide basic care for prisoners.
	The Independent National Commission on Human Rights is operational and accessible countrywide.
	A baseline for the military justice system is established, including doctrine, policy and laws.

National reconciliation progress	Structures are established to take forward the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
	The constitutional Review Task Force and Law Reform Commission produce proposals for legislative and constitutional reforms.
	Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are formalized and institutionalized for dispute resolution (land and ethnic).
	The public land sale law is enacted, promoted and implemented.
Enhanced government capacity to mitigate conflict factors	The Government has capacity to mitigate security challenges relating to disaffected persons, such as unemployed youth, including programmes targeting high security-risk areas.
	Mechanisms are developed and institutionalized to mitigate tensions related to the regularization of natural resource exploitation and concession development, including major labour disputes.
Progress towards improved public financial management	The Public Financial Management Act is promoted and implemented.
	Transparency is established in natural resource exploitation, including compliance with the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative requirements and Kimberley Process.
	Recommendations from General Audit Commission audit reports are implemented. Anti-corruption strategies are implemented and promoted by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.

[a] Core benchmarks are markers towards the achievement of the mandate of UNMIL and the attainment of the conditions to achieve its strategic goal in Liberia. A steady state of security is the point where national security institutions are developed to a level at which they are able to operate independently without the support of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and can be further developed by the Government of Liberia in a sustained manner with assistance from bilateral partners.

[b] Operational: existence of functional capabilities, with clear command structures and management; transparent, accountable and appropriate organizational structure; conducting continuous skills-based training and re-training; and having adequate logistical facilities, including financial resources, materials and communications. The capabilities should be underpinned by a core doctrine/vision, and be deemed nationally sustainable in the long run.

[c] Contextual benchmarks are conditions or factors that could reignite violent conflict or interact with the core benchmarks to undermine security.

United Nations S/2011/73

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2011

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council established the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), and resolution 1949 (2010), renewing the mandate of UNIOGBIS and requesting me to report every four months on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and on progress made in the implementation of the mandate. The present report covers major developments since my report of 25 October 2010 (S/2010/550).

II. Major developments in Guinea-Bissau

A. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, the political leadership of Guinea-Bissau and major Government institutions made significant efforts to improve the political and security environment, as well as the country's relationship with regional and international partners. The end of October 2010 was dominated, however, by renewed indications of the continuing rift between President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior. Some pressure groups from the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde reinforced their support for the Prime Minister as the leader of the party in a well-attended rally that took place on 30 October in Gabú, in eastern Guinea-Bissau. Subsequently, representatives of traditional leaders met separately with the President and Prime Minister, on 2 and 3 November, and urged them to reconcile, while criticizing their advisers for fomenting discord within the leadership of the country.

3. On 8 November, another party pressure group, the "Movement of Young Patriots in Solidarity with the Government of Carlos Gomes Júnior", warned against any attempt to bring down the Government. It also cautioned that the expectations of the people could not be jeopardized by small groups and dissidents within the party. In an attempt to promote rapprochement between the President and the Prime Minister, the Minister for Commerce, Botché Candé, and the President's Diplomatic and Political Adviser, Soares Sambú, toured Bafatá and Gabú on 13 and

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14 November to sensitize the party's supporters on the need to refrain from speculation and partisanship and to respect the country's institutions. Civil society groups also undertook various initiatives to impress on the President and the Prime Minister the need for more genuine institutional collaboration.

4. In his address to the National Assembly on 19 November, at the opening of the new parliamentary year, President Sanhá acknowledged that a lack of dialogue persisted and was hampering institutional relations. Concern that relations between the President and the Prime Minister might deteriorate further continued during the reporting period, in particular on 26 October, when the Prime Minister suspended the Interior Minister, Satú Camará Pinto, a personal appointee of President Sanhá. The Prime Minister blamed Ms. Pinto for having contravened cabinet instructions to freeze promotions in the defence and security forces. However, she continued to carry out her ministerial duties. The stand-off continued until 18 December, when the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament and the President of the Supreme Court reached a compromise, which resulted in the resignation of Ms. Pinto on 20 December. She was replaced by a presidential adviser, Dinis Na Fantchama, and was subsequently appointed as head of the Presidential Staff Office on 23 December.

5. On 27 December, the President denied the existence of personal tensions with the Prime Minister and gave the assurance that the Government would stay in place until the end of the legislative session in 2012. Speculation over the survival of the Government ended when the 2011 State budget was approved by the National Assembly on 20 December 2010, with the support of the opposition Republican Party for Independence and Development, the Democratic Alliance and the Party for New Democracy. My Special Representative continued his efforts to promote permanent dialogue between the President and the Prime Minister, following the joint meeting on 14 October between the two leaders and ambassadors resident in Bissau, during which the urgency of establishing constructive and inclusive political dialogue at all levels was stressed.

6. During the reporting period, UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide technical support to the organizing committee of the national conference. As part of efforts to enhance political dialogue, the organizing committee met with national stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations and military and security leaders, to explain the aims of the national conference process and methodology and to lobby for their support. With the financial assistance of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the organizing committee launched the national conference process on 14 December with a series of eight regional conferences for defence and security personnel, which were completed on 16 January 2011. A total of 50 participants attended each conference, with the exception of the one held in Bissau, where 100 participants were in attendance. During the opening session of the parliamentary year, on 19 November, the President and the Speaker of Parliament called for support for the national conference and referred to the need to advance the revision of the Constitution.

7. On 3 and 4 December, UNIOGBIS and the Bissau Faculty of Law organized a debate on the constitutional framework of Guinea-Bissau, attended by 40 participants, including members of the Parliamentary Commission for the Review of the Constitution and representatives of State institutions, the military,

political parties and civil society organizations. The support for the Parliamentary Commission provided by UNIOGBIS and the Faculty of Law included four thematic workshops, the first of which was held on 13 and 14 January 2011. For their part, UNDP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union organized a workshop for 100 parliamentarians on 9 and 10 December 2010 to better define the duties and responsibilities of the National Assembly, and to subsequently publish a manual on oversight mechanisms and a manual on administrative and financial procedures.

8. On 22 December 2010, the former Chief of General Staff, Vice-Admiral Zamora Induta, and the former head of military intelligence, Colonel Samba Djaló, were released from the custody of the armed forces. The officers had been detained in connection with the events of 1 April 2010, when the then-Deputy Chief of General Staff, General Antonio Indjai, ordered the arrest of the Chief of General Staff, the brief detention of the Prime Minister and the release of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto from the United Nations premises, where he had sought refuge since 28 December 2009. The release of Vice-Admiral Induta, ordered by the Military High Court in October 2010 owing to a lack of evidence to substantiate charges of embezzlement of funds and abuse of power, had initially been withheld by General Indjai because of security and safety concerns. Major General Melcíades Manuel Gomes Fernandes, Captain Bacar Sanó, Lieutenant Malam Candé and Sergeant Djabu Camará were also all released, having spent 19 months in detention in connection with the assassination of former Chief of General Staff Tagme Na Waie in March 2009.

B. Security sector reform and the rule of law

9. On 25 October 2010, my Special Representative met in Luanda with the President of Angola, Eduardo dos Santos, to discuss his country's bilateral efforts within the scope of the partnership between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), especially as Angola was the Chair of the latter. While highlighting bilateral cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in various areas, including defence and security, President dos Santos also stressed the benefit of working within the framework of multilateral partnerships, especially that of ECOWAS and CPLP, under the coordination of the United Nations. Subsequently, the CPLP Chiefs of General Staff held their twelfth ordinary session on 28 and 29 October in Bissau. The session was opened by the Minister for Defence, Aristides Ocante da Silva, who, as Chair of the Security Sector Reform Steering Committee, highlighted joint efforts by the national authorities and the international community for the effective launch of the reforms in the defence and security sectors.

10. On 22 and 23 November, the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff, the CPLP defence and security chiefs and CPLP representatives held an extraordinary session in Abuja to further discuss the road map developed by the Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS and CPLP in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. That road map had envisaged the deployment of training and protection units to enhance the security of State institutions and the demobilization and reinsertion of members of the armed forces and security services. At the end of the meeting, the Chiefs of Defence Staff recommended the swift mobilization of $95 million to implement a programme of reforms as part of the road map, which included the rehabilitation of

two military barracks and the deployment of police training units, 100 security and close protection personnel and 3 formed police units.

11. The 28th meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council was held in Abuja on 24 November to discuss the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff, in particular the road map for the reform of the defence and security sectors in Guinea-Bissau. The Minister for External Relations and the Minister for Defence of Angola, representing CPLP, my Special Representatives for West Africa and for Guinea-Bissau, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau also attended the meeting. The various statements echoed a call for the enhancement of international support for the ECOWAS-CPLP partnership, the prompt adoption of the road map and the stepping-up of resource mobilization efforts. At the end of the meeting, the recommendations of the Chiefs of Defence Staff were adopted and submitted to the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for final endorsement and action. Subsequently, on 21 December, my Special Representative wrote to the President of the ECOWAS Commission, James Victor Gbeho, to stress the urgency of convening a summit of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to consider and formally endorse the road map in order to maintain and build on the momentum in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

12. At its meeting on 23 December, the African Union Peace and Security Council welcomed the commitment of the Guinea-Bissau authorities to reform the defence and security sectors on the basis of the recommendations of the 28th meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council. The Council requested the ECOWAS Commission to approach the bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea-Bissau for the early convening of a donors' conference to facilitate the implementation of the reforms.

13. A delegation from the Government of Angola, led by the Secretary of State for External Relations, Manuel Domingos Augusto, arrived in Bissau on 6 January 2011 to discuss the implementation of bilateral agreements in the economic and security sector areas. The delegation met with President Sanhá, Prime Minister Gomes Júnior and the Minister for Defence of Guinea-Bissau, among others, to convey the readiness of Angola to expand the support it provided to Guinea-Bissau and, as a matter of priority, to support the rehabilitation of military installations and training and equipment of the defence and security forces of Guinea-Bissau. The head of the Angola delegation assured my Special Representative of the resolve of his Government to operate under the umbrella of the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau and to maintain close ties to that end with UNIOGBIS. The Government of Angola had previously allocated $30 million to cover the costs of a bilateral defence and security sector reform agreement signed in 2010, which would be implemented within the framework of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map.

14. On 31 January, the Council of the European Union, on the recommendation of the European Commission, decided to initiate consultations with Guinea-Bissau based on article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement. The decision to hold consultations reflect concerns of the European Union about respect for democratic principles and the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau. The European Commission would temporarily suspend part of its development cooperation assistance, in particular in the areas of budget support and security sector reform, pending the outcome of the consultations. The European Union had continued to call upon Guinea-Bissau to

bring an end to illegal detention and impunity, strengthen civilian authority over the military and advance reforms in the defence and security sectors.

15. From October to December 2010, UNIOGBIS and the Ministry of Defence organized awareness-raising seminars in Bissau, Gabú and Canchungo on the rule of law, human rights, gender, democracy and military justice to enhance the capacity of military officers in the process of consolidating peace and the rule of law; they also recommended the adoption of a code of conduct to prevent impunity and renew public trust in the armed forces.

16. UNIOGBIS and UNDP also continued to provide support to the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee. UNDP assisted the Steering Committee in developing a strategy and action plan to conduct a sensitization and information campaign on security sector reform and supported the implementation of the action plan, in collaboration with UNIOGBIS. One technical expert was seconded from UNIOGBIS to the permanent secretariat of the Steering Committee, and the mission provided strategic technical advice towards the formulation of the national action plan for security sector reform. The plan was presented to the Steering Committee at its meeting on 10 December, following its approval by the Minister for Defence, as Chair of the Committee.

17. The meeting of the Steering Committee offered a platform for national and international stakeholders to discuss practical ways of expediting the adoption of the proposed ECOWAS-CPLP road map and planning its implementation. In particular, the Minister for Defence insisted on the need to enhance the coordination of all actions planned under the road map so as to avoid the overlapping of plans and activities. My Special Representative impressed upon the leadership of Guinea-Bissau the need to confirm to the ECOWAS Commission its consent with the proposed road map in order to allow the Commission to convene a summit of Heads of State and Government to adopt the document. He also notified the national authorities and regional partners of the availability of UNIOGBIS to assist in the planning and coordination of the joint ECOWAS-CPLP partnership in Guinea-Bissau. It was in that context that UNIOGBIS established close coordination ties with the first team of experts of the Angola military and police, led by Lieutenant-General Gildo Carvalho dos Santos, deployed to Guinea-Bissau on 3 January 2011.

18. On 21 December, at the request of the Government, UNIOGBIS sponsored a meeting between officers of the Guinea-Bissau armed forces and internal security institutions to discuss security sector reform plans, with particular emphasis on the recommendations of the Chiefs of Defence Staff and the security services of ECOWAS and CPLP member States. The meeting enabled the Guinea-Bissau military and security personnel to receive information on the content of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map and to discuss and clarify concerns the Guinea-Bissau military and police had regarding the details of the proposed reforms. At the end of the meeting, a final declaration was issued commending the joint efforts of ECOWAS and CPLP and calling for the implementation of the road map.

19. During the reporting period, progress was also achieved in the vetting and certification process of policing and internal security agencies. The United Nations standing police capacity, which was deployed in Guinea-Bissau until November 2010, assisted the national authorities in developing a comprehensive human resources database in support of the policing and internal security agencies. On

21 January, the Chair of the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee signed a decree establishing the National Mixed Technical Independent Commission, which would be responsible for carrying out the vetting and certification process under the technical assistance of UNIOGBIS. Completion of the process should ensure individual and institutional integrity and accountability and help to improve the public image of the internal security institutions and armed forces, thus increasing the population's trust and confidence in them.

20. Several training courses designed by the standing police capacity were held in November and December 2010 as part of the training programme for the personnel of the future model police station in Bissau, which was still under construction. The courses covered human rights and gender perspectives, criminal investigation and leadership and focused on governance and human resources management. UNIOGBIS security sector reform advisers also joined with the permanent secretariat of the National Steering Committee, the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Order Police and the Interpol National Central Bureau, among others, to provide on-the-job training, mentoring, coaching and capacity-building in logistical and administrative areas.

21. UNIOGBIS, with national and international partners, had been assisting national authorities in promoting dialogue and cooperation among and between law enforcement agencies, magistrates and prosecutors in Guinea-Bissau. On 11 November, UNIOGBIS organized a seminar for the Office of the Prosecutor General and for police agencies to promote cooperation and information exchange and to develop an efficient criminal justice system to fight impunity. UNIOGBIS and the standing police capacity also continued to assist national partners in establishing a protection and facilitation programme for witnesses and victims, which is a crucial element in addressing drug trafficking, organized crime, political, sexual and gender-based violence and other serious crimes. The Mission, in close consultation with other international partners, also assisted national stakeholders with the approval and implementation of the required legislative framework, as well as with capacity-building initiatives related to the protection and facilitation of testimonies by witnesses. A national ad hoc committee, with the support of UNIOGBIS, finalized the initial phase of an initiative to develop national legislation that would protect witnesses, victims and key national officers involved in combating impunity. The Prosecutor General and the Minister for Justice were following up on the next steps to have the text approved and subsequently used as the basis for draft legislation.

22. UNIOGBIS and the Portuguese Embassy organized a training seminar for 100 senior law enforcement officers on crime reporting and criminal investigation, held in Bissau from 2 to 6 December. The initiative helped foster cooperation among police institutions and facilitated the implementation of their respective laws. Since its inauguration on 22 July 2010, the computer-based training centre, established with the assistance of the Government of Canada, UNIOGBIS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the standing police capacity, had helped train a total of 430 officers from various policing institutions in the areas of criminal investigation, public order, protective operations, immigration, border control, customs, money-laundering and criminal intelligence. The centre also fosters cooperation among police institutions.

23. The bidding process for management of the armed forces pension fund resumed in December 2010, and was jointly managed by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Finance. Following the establishment of the association of ex-combatants in November, an estimated 1,000 individuals claiming to be ex-combatants had complained that they had not been taken into account by the 2009 census of liberation war veterans. The issue was being addressed with the assistance of the Ministry of Defence.

24. In November 2010, a multidisciplinary team comprising one international and five national consultants recruited by UNDP initiated in three pilot regions a study on access to justice to identify the most vulnerable groups in terms of access to justice, including their perception of justice, their capacities and the challenges they face in accessing legal support mechanisms and judicial advice, with a view to recommending appropriate responses. In December, UNDP and the Bissau Faculty of Law signed an agreement to complete the second phase of an extensive research project on the traditional justice mechanisms and customary law of six ethnic groups in Guinea-Bissau. The goal of the project was to produce a legal analysis of the customary practices adopted in conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level and to facilitate a better understanding of the informal justice system. UNDP, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and UNODC continued to implement a project under the UNDP/Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund to increase access to justice and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in that area.

C. Illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking

25. UNODC and UNIOGBIS continued to provide assistance to national authorities as part of the West Africa Coast Initiative in support of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. In response to a letter dated 27 October 2010 from the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau addressed to me requesting further assistance and funding for the implementation of the 2007-2010 national operational plan for preventing and combating drug trafficking and its extension until 2013, UNODC took the necessary steps to extend the different components of the operational plan in consultation with national and international partners.

26. On 3 December, a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a transnational crime unit was signed by the Justice, Interior and Finance Ministers. The unit, established within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, would be a specialized national inter-agency mechanism playing a key role in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking in the country. On 16 December, a joint briefing by West Africa Coast Initiative partners to the Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission took place in New York, in parallel to the UNODC high-level briefing session on drug trafficking and organized crime as a security threat to West Africa.

27. The new premises of the upgraded Interpol National Central Bureau were inaugurated on 9 December and were expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2011. UNODC was continuing its efforts to mobilize partners and had

received important financial contributions for law enforcement activities from the European Union and the United States of America within the framework of the UNODC Law Enforcement Project Portfolio for Guinea-Bissau. UNIOGBIS had co-located a team of experts at the Interpol National Central Bureau on a rotational basis to permanently assist with mentoring activities.

28. From 20 September to 10 November 2010, 80 penitentiary guards and 5 directors of the prisons of Mansoa and Bafata were trained by experts from the prison services of the Portuguese Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNODC and with support from UNIOGBIS. That training included the delivery of uniforms and equipment. Preliminary activities were ongoing to assess the rehabilitation needs of the Canchungo prison and the Judiciary Police detention centre in Bissau. The legal framework for the prison system in Guinea-Bissau was developed by a working group comprising representatives from the Ministry of Justice and UNODC and had been approved by the National Assembly.

29. UNODC, in partnership with the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, also conducted a one-week training programme from 13 to 17 December for judges and prosecutors, inspectors of the Judiciary Police and officials from the Ministry of Justice on mutual legal assistance and international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Representatives from Cape Verde, Portugal, Spain, the European Commission and UNIOGBIS also attended the training.

D. Human rights and gender issues

30. The investigations into the assassinations of March and June 2009 were ongoing. The Guinea-Bissau League of Human Rights had expressed satisfaction with the release of several officers detained without due process in connection with the 2009 political assassinations and the events of 1 April 2010, and with the fact that the national authorities were complying with due process. However, the League had appealed to the authorities to guarantee the security of the released persons and to clarify the circumstances surrounding the 2009 assassinations.

31. On 10 December 2010, to mark Human Rights Day, UNIOGBIS and UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Commission, organized several awareness-raising activities involving human rights defenders in Guinea-Bissau, including a sports tournament for disabled persons, radio debates, a lecture at the Bissau Faculty of Law, two workshops in the eastern and northern parts of the country and the dissemination of materials on human rights in the Criolo language.

32. UNIOGBIS, the Ministry of Interior and the Public Order Police also organized sensitization workshops on gender issues, held on 28 October and 7 December, to promote full respect for the principles of equality and gender balance within law enforcement structures. Efforts were also deployed to raise awareness of gender issues within the police forces, in particular on the prevention, signalling and investigation of gender-based violence. The Ministry of Interior had requested further technical assistance to create internal structures to better address gender-based violence.

33. In October and November 2010, UNIOGBIS supported several activities of the National Steering Committee to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1325 (2000). The aim was to raise military and police commanders' awareness of the role and importance of the effective and equal participation of women in the military and police institutions, within the framework of the security sector reform programme. The activities included seminars and radio programmes in Bissau and the regions, including a march of uniformed women and a workshop to reflect the progress made in implementing the resolution.

34. A workshop on gender-responsive budgeting was organized for parliamentarians from 25 to 28 October 2010, with the active collaboration of five ministries, including the Finance and Economy Ministries. The United Nations Development Fund for Women and other United Nations agencies also supported the parliamentary specialized commission on women and children in drafting a law against domestic violence. That entailed regional consultations with representatives of the Government, civil society organizations and traditional leaders to ensure widespread ownership of the process.

III. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

35. In a meeting held in New York on 5 November 2010, my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau briefed the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in the country. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration was requested to prepare a strategy paper on the way forward for the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission. The paper, discussed on 22 November at a meeting of the configuration, considered that the events of 1 April reflected the persistent disregard by the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau of the principle of civilian authority over the military. The paper also acknowledged the progress made in the areas of economic and financial reforms, and took note of the consensus that a disengagement from Guinea-Bissau would have a negative impact on ongoing efforts to build democratic governance and effectively address peace and stability challenges. The paper stressed that, depending on future developments on the ground, the Peacebuilding Commission could help mobilize resources for security sector reform and the military pension fund, and support the organization of a donors' round table with a focus on socio-economic and institutional capacity-building priorities as outlined in the Peacebuilding Commission's strategic framework for peacebuilding.

36. On 15 December, the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee approved the 2011-2013 Peacebuilding Priority Plan for Guinea-Bissau, which identified key peacebuilding priorities for those three years, including, in particular, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue; strengthening the security sector and the rule of law; the revitalization of the economy; and the reactivation of basic social services. The document was formally submitted to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office on 22 December. I subsequently assessed the proposal and recommended an allocation of up to $16.8 million. The Peacebuilding Support Office will pursue discussions with UNIOGBIS and the Joint Steering Committee on the practical aspects of the release of those funds and the

implementation of the priority plan. Three projects funded under the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation were expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2011, following the approval of a no-cost extension. The projects were for the rehabilitation of the military barracks in the regions of Gabú and Quebo and the refurbishment of the Amura fortress, the renovation and refurbishment of the regional prisons in Mansoa and Bafatá and vocational training and youth employment. The remaining balance from the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation would be used for two critical activities in line with the priority plan, namely the eight regional preparatory conferences on security and defence to be conducted within the framework of the national dialogue process, and the functioning of the Peacebuilding Fund secretariat.

IV. Economic and social aspects

37. Despite the continuing structural fragility of the economic and fiscal situation, Guinea-Bissau continued to pursue important reforms that enabled it to make significant progress in managing its debt burden, thus opening up opportunities to stabilize the economy and promote economic growth. Key economic and public administration reforms were moving forward as the Government sought to improve fiscal discipline. In December 2010, having reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, Guinea-Bissau benefited from a debt relief package of up to $1.2 billion, which represented an 87 per cent cut in its debt. The Prime Minister pledged that the Government would invest the additional resources in social sectors and infrastructure, and address the priorities of the Guinea-Bissau poverty reduction strategy. On 27 December, commenting on reaching the HIPC initiative completion point, as endorsed on 16 December by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, President Sanhá praised the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and encouraged them to pursue the reform programme.

38. An IMF delegation visited Bissau from 10 to 14 January to stress, among other things, that the announced debt relief was a unique opportunity for the Government to implement reforms and its economic development programme and to encourage the authorities to prevent political instability that could undermine the positive momentum. It was also noted that the remaining debt was still high and would require prudent management. Economic growth was expected to reach 4 per cent in 2010, compared to 3 per cent in 2009. The Government also made progress in increasing tax revenues within the context of fiscal reforms and anticipated that, in 2011, it would have the budgetary resources to cover spending beyond the payment of salaries. While those were encouraging developments, the Government nonetheless remained strongly dependent on international assistance and continued to face difficulties in delivering basic services to the population.

39. Guinea-Bissau was about to finalize its second national poverty reduction strategy paper, for the period from 2011 to 2015. The United Nations country team and UNIOGBIS, under the technical leadership and coordination of UNDP, had provided significant contributions to the drafting process, supported the organization of regional consultations, and assessed the costing studies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in five strategic sectors: health, education, infrastructure, agriculture and energy. The country team and World Bank had also assisted the Government with gender and risk management mainstreaming, a

poverty profile update, and the creation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and indicators. The 2011 survey on monitoring the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and the fragile States survey, officially launched during the reporting period, were expected to contribute to assessing progress in the Paris Declaration commitments and to help make tangible improvements in the way aid was delivered in Guinea-Bissau.

40. UNDP had supported the public administration reform and the modernization programme of the Government through the implementation of an integrated human resources and state payroll management system. The system was designed to enable the Government to manage revenue and staffing for better planning and rationalization of budget expenditures, to improve the quality of public services, promote interaction between Government structures and the private sector, to strengthen the participation of citizens through access to information, to achieve good governance in public administration, and to promote transparency and reduce corruption and administrative services costs.

41. The 2010-2011 cereal harvest increased from 137,739 tons in 2009 to 157,223 tons, including a total of 106,273 tons of rice in 2010. Despite that substantial increase, the food situation remained difficult in all regions of the country, owing to the low income of producers and the high food prices. Although markets were sufficiently supplied and prices of foodstuffs were uniform and stable throughout the country in the first half of 2010, they experienced stock shortages in the second half owing to lower imports of food staples and the subsequent price increase, which hampered access to food. The Government had remained up to date with salaries but was faced with strikes over conditions of service and arrears owed to some categories of employees. Although the school year had started on time in October 2010, State schools were disrupted by strike actions led by two teachers' unions from October to December over contractual issues and salary arrears owed to teachers on temporary contracts.

42. The Government and teachers' unions reached an agreement to end the strike and to make up for 13 lost teaching days. Magistrates and trade unions representing three State-owned media organizations, namely the national radio, the *Nô Pintcha* newspaper and the Guinean news agency, had also embarked on strike action in December over higher salaries and to demand improved conditions of work and security. Following negotiations with the Government, the media trade unions had agreed to end their three-day action, while strike action by the magistrates resumed in January 2011.

43. The preliminary results of the multiple indicator cluster survey and reproductive health survey, carried out jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States, showed that mortality rates had declined since 2006, with under-5 mortality down from 223 per 1,000 live births to 158 per 1,000 live births. The results also indicated that most major indicators on vaccination, access to education and water and sanitation had also improved. However, some indicators related to child protection, such as birth registration and child labour, may have worsened. Following the endorsement of the education sector plan, Guinea-Bissau had been accepted as a member of the World Bank Education for All Fast-Track Initiative, which would enable it to access the catalytic fund of that initiative in early 2011.

44. Under the second phase of the "Youth Initiative" project, UNDP provided advisory support and grants to 15 youth organizations for the implementation of peacebuilding activities in various regions of Guinea-Bissau. More than 100 young people received training on information and communication techniques for peace, and on volunteerism to raise awareness on peacebuilding. Theatrical performances in the towns of Bissorã and Bissau, touching on communal conflicts, allowed for discussions on peaceful ways of dealing with conflicts and the establishment of conflict-prevention groups.

V. Public information

45. In December 2010, UNIOGBIS organized a seminar on media coverage of human rights and gender issues for 45 journalists from Bissau-based media and community radios, as well as for communication officers from the National Assembly and the Ministry of Justice. The mission also organized a sensitization meeting with journalists on 21 December 2010 to present its mandate as outlined in Security Council resolution 1949 (2010).

46. At the bilateral level, as part of its expanding cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, Angola disbursed $150,000 in November 2010 to enhance the technical capacities of Guinea-Bissau national television, which had resumed its programmes at the end of 2010. In a second phase, Angola also committed to allocate $6 million to support State radio and television in the areas of infrastructure, equipment and capacity-building.

VI. Integration of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau

47. During the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to make progress towards the integration and implementation of the programmes contained in the United Nations Framework for Peace and Development in Guinea-Bissau. The period under review corresponded to the preparation of the annual progress report on the status of the implementation of the Framework. That annual report highlighted the key achievements under each priority area, as well as the challenges, risks and constraints encountered during its implementation, and the external factors that had influenced the non-achievement of some objectives. It also proposed some policy recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the mandate of UNIOGBIS.

48. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1949 (2010), UNIOGBIS and the country team would organize their annual retreat in the first quarter of 2011 to agree on key benchmarks for the implementation of the Framework and their respective annual workplans. That exercise would be undertaken in line with the 2011-2015 national poverty reduction strategy paper.

VII. Safety and security of personnel

49. During the reporting period, there were no visible direct threats against United Nations staff in Guinea-Bissau. The crime rate remained under normal levels. All security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced.

VIII. Observations

50. I am encouraged by the noticeable progress that Guinea-Bissau has made to reverse the negative effects of the civil-military events that took place on 1 April 2010. In that respect, I note the positive steps taken by the leadership of Guinea-Bissau, especially the President and Prime Minister, to demonstrate its renewed commitment to resolve contentious issues through dialogue and consultations and to consolidate State institutions. In that context, I also wish to acknowledge the important role played by regional and international stakeholders to encourage constructive dialogue among the political and military leadership.

51. I welcome the launch on 14 December 2010 of the inclusive preparatory process bringing together Parliament, Government institutions, defence and security institutions and civil society organizations, among others, that should culminate in 2011 in the holding of the long-awaited national conference. I encourage the leadership and population of Guinea-Bissau to make the best use of this crucial process and establish permanent and inclusive mechanisms of dialogue and consultation in order to strengthen governance, democratic institutions, justice and the rule of law, as well as institutional frameworks that are essential for the stability of the country. I appeal to the country's international partners to continue to extend all necessary assistance to the national conference process.

52. I take note of the recent efforts to improve the security environment in Guinea-Bissau, especially those of the civilian leadership of the country, to assert its control over defence and security institutions. I welcome the initial steps taken by bilateral partners, in particular Angola, to help Guinea-Bissau restructure its armed forces and to contribute to the rehabilitation of military and police installations. I encourage the political and military leadership of Guinea-Bissau to adhere to ongoing regional mechanisms and processes aimed at assisting them in the establishment of republican and professional defence and security institutions.

53. In that context, I am especially encouraged by the progress made by regional and international partners, in particular by CPLP and ECOWAS, to generate technical and financial support for the implementation of the security sector reform programme. The adoption on 24 November 2010 by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council of the road map developed to support that programme marked a critically important first step in formalizing the emerging partnership between CPLP and ECOWAS to restructure and modernize the Guinea-Bissau defence and security institutions.

54. I recall the request of the Security Council in its resolution 1949 (2010) to present comprehensive information detailing the proposed modalities, timing and resources relating to the implementation of the road map. The Council also requested me to engage with ECOWAS and CPLP with a view to undertaking a joint assessment of the requirements to support the rapid implementation of the road map

in coordination with the relevant partners. In order not to lose the positive momentum ensuing from the adoption of the road map, I trust that the political and military leadership of Guinea-Bissau will officially confirm its adherence to the ECOWAS plan and that ECOWAS Heads of State and Government will endorse it to enable the implementation process to begin. I intend to deploy a mission to Bissau by the end of the first quarter of 2011 to undertake the requested assessment, following which I will provide a detailed response to the Council's request in my next report.

55. In my previous report, I stressed that the emerging ECOWAS-CPLP partnership had helped to regenerate political momentum in Guinea-Bissau and had reopened a window of opportunity to enhance collaboration between the international community and the people and leadership of Guinea-Bissau following months of impasse. In that regard, it is worth noting that the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau have made noticeable efforts in recent months to reverse the negative trends that had dominated the events of 1 April, in particular by beginning to address issues related to impunity in the armed forces. Despite these positive steps, including the release from detention of Vice-Admiral Induta and other senior officers, the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau should continue to take appropriate measures to ensure full respect for due process in the prosecution of those responsible for criminal acts such as political assassinations and drug trafficking. I call upon the national authorities to complete the investigations into the 2009 political assassinations and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. Such action would contribute to improving public confidence in national institutions and help end impunity in the country. The United Nations will continue to assist the country in that endeavour.

56. I welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a transnational crime unit, which is a key mechanism for enhancing national capacity in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The implementation of the national 2010-2013 action plan to fight drug trafficking and organized crime deserves the support of international partners within the framework of the ECOWAS regional action plan designed to curb that plague at the subregional level. The United Nations stands ready to continue to support the efforts of ECOWAS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to that end.

57. I would like to congratulate the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the courageous and focused economic reforms that have significantly improved economic performance, and I commend the country's international partners, in particular IMF and the World Bank, for their support in achieving that result. It is now necessary for the Government to pursue its reform process and continue to improve the macroeconomic context. In order to improve the Government's capacity to absorb international support, especially following the attainment of debt relief under the HIPC process, it is crucial that it strengthen its coordination mechanisms in an integrated and synchronized way. The United Nations remains available to provide assistance in that regard. Political stability is essential if the country is to use the window of opportunity presented by the recently announced debt relief arrangement to build on the positive momentum created. It is especially important for the people of Guinea-Bissau, in particular political and military actors, to reflect on the high cost of the wasted years and to focus on working collectively in the national interest towards building a national consensus on the priorities for socio-economic development and long-term stability.

58. I would like to conclude by commending the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, and the entire United Nations country team led by my new Deputy Special Representative, Gana Fofang, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations and other partners, for the important work they continue to carry out to support sustainable peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations S/2011/74

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1626 (2005), by which the Council authorized the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to deploy up to 250 United Nations military personnel to Sierra Leone to provide security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. I have the further honour to refer to my letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/679) dated 28 December 2009 and the response from the President of the Security Council (S/2009/680) of 30 December 2009, pursuant to which the 250-strong military guard force, contributed by Mongolia, was reduced by 100 troops. The remaining 150 military personnel were retained to continue providing security to the Special Court's facilities, personnel and highly confidential records.

The Registrar of the Special Court informed the Secretariat by a letter dated 13 October 2010 that the UNMIL military guard force would no longer be required beyond the end of January/early February 2011, since the evidence and archives would be completely transferred from the Special Court to The Hague in December 2010, and its international staff would be reduced accordingly.

During subsequent consultations, the Government of Sierra Leone requested that the withdrawal of the military guard force be postponed until the end of February/early March 2011, in order to allow additional time to train the local security personnel that will assume full responsibility for the security of the Special Court at that time.

In this connection, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations also consulted with the troop-contributing country concerned and other stakeholders. In a letter dated 13 December 2010, my Special Representative for Liberia proposed to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone that, in order to accommodate the request from the Government of Sierra Leone, the repatriation of the military guard force take place the week of 7 March 2011.

Following the usual consultations, I therefore recommend that the military guard force be withdrawn from the Special Court for Sierra Leone early in March 2011. I should be grateful if the present letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

11-23529 (E) 150211

Please recycle

United Nations S/2001/75

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 February 2011

Original: English

France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolution 1967 (2011), 1962 (2010), 1951 (2010), 1946 (2010), 1942 (2010) and 1933 (2010) and statements of its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and in the subregion,

Recalling the inter-mission cooperation arrangements provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Security Council resolution 1609 (2005) and in paragraph 6 of resolution 1938 (2010), *recalling further* paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 1967 (2011) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1962 (2010),

Recalling its intention to consider authorizing the Secretary-General to redeploy further troops, as may be needed, between the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on a temporary basis and *mindful* of the need to support UNMIL's ability to carry out its mandate,

Recalling the letter of the Secretary-General dated 7 January 2011 (S/2011/5) stressing the essential role played by the assets deployed from UNMIL to UNOCI in the current challenging circumstances in Côte d'Ivoire,

Reaffirming its full support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Côte d'Ivoire in carrying out his mandate,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General, further to paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 1967 (2011), paragraph 6 of resolution 1962 (2010), resolution 1951 (2010) and paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolution 1609 (2005), to extend up to three months the temporary redeployment from UNMIL to UNOCI of three infantry companies, one aviation unit comprised of two military utility helicopters and three armed helicopters with crews;

2. *Requests* the support of troop- and police-contributing countries in that regard;

3. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

11-23637 (E) 160211

Please recycle

United Nations A/65/735–S/2011/76

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 February 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 117
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 15 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a letter dated 14 February 2011 addressed to you by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Antonio Miloshoski (see annex). The letter responds to a letter addressed to you by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Dimitris P. Droutsas, dated 12 November 2010, forwarded to you by way of a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to the United Nations, Anastassis Mitsialis, dated 21 December 2010 and circulated by you in document A/65/667-S/2010/672, dated 30 December 2010.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 117, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Slobodan **Tashovski**
Permanent Representative

11-23722 (E) 220211

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 15 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you with regard to the letter from H.E. Mr. Dimitris P. Droutsas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, dated 12 November 2010 (see A/65/667-S/2010/672, annex).

By way of introduction, I note the significant delay between the date of the letter (12 November 2010) and its circulation (the letter was forwarded to you by way of a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to the United Nations, Anastassis Mitsialis, dated 21 December 2010, and circulated by you on 30 December 2010).

The letter makes a number of factually and legally incorrect assertions concerning my country, to which I must respond. The first inaccurate claim is that the Republic of Macedonia has failed to negotiate in good faith to reach a solution concerning the difference over the name of my country. The second is that we are alleged to have engaged in practices of "antiquization" and "provocation", in breach of the Interim Accord signed between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Macedonia in 1995. The Republic of Macedonia strongly rejects both allegations, which are based on fundamental misrepresentations of fact and law.

With respect to the negotiations concerning the difference over the name of my country, the Republic of Macedonia has engaged actively and constructively in good faith negotiations since the adoption of Security Council resolution 817 (1993), through the mediation process led most recently by your Personal Envoy, Matthew Nimetz. In the course of those negotiations, the Republic of Macedonia accepted a number of proposals put forward by Mr. Nimetz as a basis for a solution, including the proposal of March 2008 of "Republic of Macedonia (Skopje)", which the Hellenic Republic regrettably rejected.

The acceptance of these proposals represented a departure by my country from its preferred position, with the aim of facilitating a mutually acceptable solution. In making these concessions we have sought to address Greek concerns, being guided by a spirit of goodwill and good-neighbourly relations. We have repeatedly reiterated our firm commitment to the negotiation process and our determination to resolve the difference that has arisen over the name. That is why Mr. Nimetz has commended us for our serious efforts in seeking to resolve the difference. As I reiterated to you last time when we exchanged views, we are eager to ensure that the stalled negotiation process is reinvigorated. We were thus very pleased at the scheduling of the recent meeting with your Personal Envoy, which took place in New York on 9 February, and we look forward to the next round of talks.

My country also demonstrated its strong commitment to developing and maintaining good-neighbourly relations with our Greek neighbour, through its participation in a series of high-level bilateral contacts with the Hellenic Republic over the past 16 months. These talks were rendered possible by a welcome change in Greek policy in 2009, permitting the resumption of such contacts. We have approached this parallel process, intended to facilitate the negotiations undertaken under your auspices, with good faith. In order to further develop mutual cooperation between our two countries, and to assist in developing a climate of good-neighbourliness conducive to resolving the difference over the name, the Republic

of Macedonia has in good faith proposed and retabled a number of initiatives intended to assist the advancement of bilateral relations. Macedonia remains hopeful that the Hellenic Republic will reconsider its initial negative response to those initiatives.

The Republic of Macedonia also remains hopeful that the Hellenic Republic will depart from its self-stated "non-negotiable" "red line" position of seeking unilaterally to impose its demands for "a compound name with a geographical qualifier for all uses and purposes". Indeed, the Hellenic Republic's approach to the mediation process envisages an obligation on the Republic of Macedonia to simply acquiesce to unilateral "non-negotiable" demands made by the Hellenic Republic. Yet a compromise and enduring solution to the difference will be reached only if account is taken of both parties' positions, as well as of the fundamental principles of international law, including respect for the integrity and equality of sovereign States.

The Hellenic Republic also has sought to impose its demands on the Republic of Macedonia through a strategy of actions intended to limit our Euro-Atlantic and European integration. Pursuant to this strategy, and with the purpose of seeking to pressure our country into accepting its demands in the name of negotiations, the Hellenic Republic objected to the admission of my country to North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership in 2008. That objection is currently the subject of a case before the International Court of Justice, where we seek, inter alia, a declaration that the Hellenic Republic has violated the letter and spirit of the Interim Accord of 1995.

With respect to the Hellenic Republic's second allegation, it is unclear in what sense "relief representations" constructed "as part of the 'Skopje 2014' plan" have any connection to the name negotiations. In any event, the Republic of Macedonia rejects the assertion that it has engaged in practices of "antiquization" or "provocation" in violation of the Interim Accord of 1995 in relation to "a series of relief representations", or otherwise. It also refutes in the strongest terms the misrepresentation made by the Hellenic Republic that the Republic of Macedonia "refuses to take any corrective actions" pursuant to article 7, paragraph 3, of the Interim Accord. The allegation made by the Hellenic Republic is based on a fundamental misrepresentation of the facts, and of the meaning of article 7, paragraph 2, and 7, paragraph 3, of the Interim Accord.

The facts of the matter are as follows:

On 1 November 2010 the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a note verbale from the Liaison Office of the Hellenic Republic in Skopje, alleging a violation by the Republic of Macedonia of article 7 of the Interim Accord in the form of "a series of relief representations of prominent Greek historical figures of Ancient Macedonia, such as the Vergina sun ... on the basis [sic] of the lion statues at the "Goce Delcev" road bridge in Skopje". The reconstruction of this bridge forms part of the "Skopje 2014" plan, referred to in the letter from the Hellenic Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, in keeping with its obligations under the Interim Accord, reviewed the matters raised by the Hellenic Republic and responded on 1 December 2010, informing the Hellenic Republic that the symbol formerly displayed on the Republic of Macedonia's national flag (termed

the "Vergina sun" by the Hellenic Republic) had been removed from the statues on the bridge in question. The note verbale read in material part as follows:

> "... In accordance with article 7, paragraph 3, of the Interim Accord and in the spirit of good-neighbourly relations, the Ministry is pleased to inform the Liaison Office of the Hellenic Republic that, subsequent to further investigations into the matters raised, it has taken action to ensure that the symbol formerly displayed on the national flag of the Republic of Macedonia will not appear on the completed lion statues at the Goce Delcev road bridge. As the Liaison Office of the Hellenic Republic may be aware, at the time this matter was raised with the Macedonian Foreign Ministry, and at the time the action by the Foreign Ministry was taken, the lion statues at the Goce Delcev road bridge were still under construction, and remain so to date ...".

As such, the allegation that my country "refuses to take any corrective actions" is plainly without foundation. It was erroneous on 12 November 2010 when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic penned his letter to the United Nations: as of that date, the Republic of Macedonia had not yet responded to the Hellenic Republic's note verbale. And it was fundamentally misrepresentative of the facts on 21 December 2010 when it was forwarded to you for distribution: by that date, my country had responded by way of a reply note verbale, setting out the "corrective actions" of which the Hellenic Republic was aware.

This reply note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, dated 1 December 2010, refuted the Hellenic Republic's claim that "relief representations" of historical figures from the region are capable of constituting a breach of article 7 of the Interim Accord. It further invited the Hellenic Republic to explain the basis for such a claim:

> "... the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates its position that artistic representations of important historic figures from the region, such as those which appear on the lions on the Goce Delcev bridge, are in no way inconsistent with the requirements of the 1995 Interim Accord. The Interim Accord does not and was never intended to curtail artistic expression, as the commitment undertaken by both Parties in article 9 makes clear. The Ministry once again expresses its hope that the Hellenic Republic does not seek to undermine the freedom of expression that is reflected in the right of artistic expression in either of our countries.
>
> Insofar as the Hellenic Republic asserts that the artistic depiction of historical figures is capable (1) of amounting to a breach of article 7 of the 1995 Interim Accord or (2) of engaging the provisions of article 7, paragraph 3, of the same accord, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia reiterates its previous request — that remains unanswered — that the Hellenic Republic clarify the basis for that assertion ...".

It is unclear why the Hellenic Republic chose not to engage in dialogue conducive to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations, by responding to the questions raised in the Republic of Macedonia's note verbale. Instead, the Hellenic Republic sought to escalate the matter, by writing to you on the basis of a misperception of the facts and law. I regret very much this approach, which appears to be connected with the pending case before the International Court of Justice.

In closing, I wish to emphasize that my Government remains fully and firmly committed to all the undertakings enshrined in the 1995 Interim Accord, and to the United Nations negotiation process under your auspices relating to resolution of the name issue. We hope that the difference over the name can be brought to a swift and successful conclusion. The Republic of Macedonia remains ready and willing to reach a mutually acceptable resolution.

(*Signed*) Antonio **Miloshoski**

United Nations S/2011/77

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 17 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1952 (2010) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, adopted on 29 November 2010, in which the Council requested me to extend, for a period expiring on 30 November 2011, the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and renewed by subsequent resolutions.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I have appointed the following experts:

Mr. Nelson Alusala, Kenya (arms)

Mr. Ruben de Koning, Netherlands (natural resources)

Mr. Steven Hege, United States of America (armed groups)

Ms. Marie Plamadiala, Republic of Moldova (customs and logistics)

Mr. Fred Robarts, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (regional issues)

I have also selected Mr. Robarts to serve as Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

11-23795 (E) 170211

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United Nations S/2011/78

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 17 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1961 (2010) concerning Liberia, adopted on 17 December 2010, whereby the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1903 (2009) until 16 December 2011 so that it can undertake the tasks set out in paragraph 6 of resolution 1961 (2010). By the same resolution, the Council requested me to reappoint the members of the Panel of Experts and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have appointed the following experts:

Mr. Christian Dietrich (United States of America, finance expert)
Ms. Augusta Muchai (Kenya, arms expert)
Ms. Wynet V. Smith (Canada, natural resources expert)

I have also designated Ms. Smith as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

11-23898 (E) 180211

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United Nations S/2011/79

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice, the Security Council invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the Security Council meeting which will be held on Friday, 18 February 2011, regarding the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

11-23954 (E) 180211

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United Nations A/ES-10/511–S/2011/80

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you today to draw your attention to the continuing condemnable use of excessive and lethal force by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This has included indiscriminate force against innocent civilians, deliberately and callously carried out by the Israeli occupying forces. As we continue to grapple with the grave crisis prevailing in the Gaza Strip as a result of the occupying Power's illegal policies and practices and its continuing blockade, which has caused immeasurable suffering and hardship for the Palestinian civilian population, we must bring to your attention the occupying Power's relentless attempts to illegally colonize the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular East Jerusalem.

Yesterday, Thursday, 17 February 2011, Israeli occupying forces killed three Palestinian fishermen who were working with their nets on the shore near Beit Lahiya, north of Gaza City. The three fishermen, Jihad Khalaf, Tal'aat Al-Ruwagh and Ashraf Al-Qteifan, all in their twenties, were killed instantaneously by heavy gunfire from Israeli helicopters. Moreover, last week, Friday, 11 February 2011, another Palestinian was brutally killed in West Jerusalem. Hussam Al-Rweidi, 24 years of age, was stabbed to death by ultra-Orthodox Jews on his way back from work to his home in Occupied East Jerusalem. After he was pronounced dead, the occupying Power withheld his body from his family for a proper burial, only until his grieving family agreed to the terms placed by the occupying forces, such as forbidding them from conducting pre-burial religious prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as agreeing to bury him in the middle of night in the presence of a limited number of relatives. We condemn the killing of these innocent civilians, and we call for those responsible for these crimes to be held accountable. The international community must also unequivocally condemn these murders and call upon Israel to cease its use of excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian people and force the occupying Power to bring the perpetrators of these crimes, whomever they may be, to justice.

11-24062 (E) 230211

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On another front, since our last letter to you, dated 28 January 2011 (A/ES-10/510-S/2011/42), Israel, the occupying Power, has not ceased its illegal colonization campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, there have been a number of provocative announcements made by the Israeli Government on its plans and intentions to further unlawfully confiscate and colonize Palestinian property and land. On 9 February 2011, the Israeli Government approved the construction of two buildings that will include 13 settlement units in Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, on 14 February 2011, Israeli occupying forces confiscated more than 33 dunnums of land and razed a one-dunnum area with more than 70 trees, including olive, apricot, almond and cypress trees, also in Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem. In addition to the razing and destruction of land, Israeli police also violently beat the 16-year-old son of the owner of the land, leaving him seriously injured. Also, on 14 February 2011, the Israeli Government approved the construction of another 120 settlement units in the illegal settlements of "Ramot Allon" and "Pisgat Ze'ev", both also in Occupied East Jerusalem. And, on 16 February 2011, Israeli media reported that Israeli occupying forces had announced a plan to relocate three of their military colleges in the northern Al-Jalil area to East Jerusalem.

Furthermore, throughout the period since our last letter, settler violence has continued unabated. On 14 February 2011, a number of Israeli settlers from "Bat Ain", an illegal settlement to the north of Beit Ummar village, north of Al-Khalil (Hebron), uprooted 250 olive seedlings from lands belonging to two Palestinian families from the nearby village of Safa. Israel, the occupying Power, bears full responsibility for the illegal presence and all the illegal actions of the settlers and we call upon the international community to apply the necessary pressure on the Israeli Government to immediately bring an end to the terror campaign being perpetuated by illegal settlers against the Palestinian civilian population and their properties under occupation.

The occupying Power's illegal colonization campaign is not only unlawful, constituting grave breaches of international law, violations of numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and total disrespect for obligations and commitments under the road map and other commitments made in the context of the Middle East peace process, but constitutes a major obstruction to the goal of a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-State solution. Indeed, as Israel continues its illegal confiscation of Palestinian land, construction and expansion of settlements and the transfer of more Israeli settlers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in order to advance its attempts to illegally de facto annex more Palestinian land, the territorial contiguity and integrity of the Territory is being severely undermined and the prospects for achieving the two-State solution are becoming physically impossible.

The international community has a legal and moral obligation to take an unwavering stand towards such belligerent, destructive and unlawful Israeli policies and practices and act to bring an end to these policies and practices. Adoption by the Security Council of the draft resolution (S/2011/24) before it in regard to illegal Israeli settlements would surely contribute in this regard, sending the proper and strong message to the Israeli Government that such illegal policies and actions will no longer be tolerated by the international community. At the same time, the international community must not waver in its calls for a halt to all other illegal

policies and practices, including those committed by illegal Israeli settlers. The principles of international law and human rights demand this, as does the search for and realization of peace in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 383 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 January 2011 (A/ES-10/510-S/2011/42), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/65/745–S/2011/81

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 1 February 2011, and concerning so-called local elections conducted by the proxy regime in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 12 February 2011 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-24142 (E) 020311

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Annex I to the identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 1 February 2011

On 1 February 2011 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation made yet another statement, which purposefully attempts to downplay the importance of the non-use of force pledge made by the President of Georgia on 23 November 2010 in the European Parliament and later reinforced in letters to the heads of various international organizations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation challenges the peace initiative of the President of Georgia by claiming that the rhetoric of the President is hostile to Georgia's "neighbouring States" and that the televised phone-in address aired by the Russian language First Caucasus Television (PIK) made on 25 January 2010 contained "hidden threats" to the "new republics". It is alarming, however not surprising, that Russia is vigorously pushing this propaganda message not only through its official statements, but also diplomatic channels, as well as various round tables and expert activities undertaken by Government-sponsored think tanks and non-governmental organizations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia would like to bring to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and its Soviet-style propaganda machine the exact quote from the statement of the President of Georgia: "Every representative of Georgia's multi-ethnic society, including the forcefully displaced Greeks, Armenians, Ukrainians and Estonians, should say: 'Next year — to Sokhumi ... I will repeat this until we return to our home'". This statement by the President of Georgia was made in the context of the return of the internally displaced persons to their homes, from which they were brutally evicted following a question of a journalist regarding the return of the internally displaced persons. Russia's attempts to interpret this phrase as a call to use force is ridiculous and cheap. The safe and dignified return of all internally displaced persons to their homes continues to be one of the top priorities of the Government of Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to stress once again that the pledge of Georgia not to use force against the Russian occupation forces and the proxy regimes with the aim of restoring Georgia's territorial integrity remains an international legal obligation of Georgia, no matter how much Russia tries to downplay its significance. Georgia is seriously motivated to pursue a peaceful agenda towards its occupied regions as exemplified by the calls to engage in a dialogue with the Russian authorities, as well as with the populations of the occupied regions.

At the same time, the safe and dignified return of the internally displaced persons remains an extremely significant outstanding issue, which requires the urgent and immediate attention of the international community. Several hundred thousands of the internally displaced persons are unable to return to their homes

because of the inhuman policy of ethnic discrimination pursued by the Russian Federation and its proxy regimes in the occupied Tskhinvali region and Abkhazia.

Over the last 18 years Russia has been continuously attempting to downplay the importance of the return of internally displaced persons and was hiding behind the toothless argument that no progress was possible until the non-use of force pledge was made. Now, once such a pledge is in force from the Georgian side, Russia has to move towards discussing the issues related to internally displaced persons seriously. Among the three most important issues which now require the urgent attention of the international community, including the Geneva Co-Chairs, are the reciprocal non-use of force pledge from Russia, establishment of the international security regimes in the occupied territories and the launch of the internally displaced persons return process to Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. Russia's recent statements and actions give us no choice but to believe that Russia is not ready to discuss either of these issues at this stage, and therefore chooses to revert back to the military and propaganda rhetoric.

Moscow seems to be also concerned that Georgia is referring to the Russian Federation as a hostile State. Indeed, the President of Georgia stated in a televised address that Russia remained a hostile State, as it was an occupying force. In the same speech, the President also expressed the hope that circumstances would permit him not to use this term in the future. If Russia wants to hear friendly rhetoric from Tbilisi, it will have to act in a friendly manner. But as long as Russia occupies Georgia's regions, it will be maintained that Russia is an occupying and hostile State. This, however, does not mean and should not be interpreted in a way that Georgia's commitment not to use force is not in effect any more.

The Russian Federation needs to start living up to its obligations under international law. By continuing the policy of violating Georgia's territorial integrity, breaching the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008, further militarizing the occupied regions, rejecting all offers of dialogue, not recognizing Georgia's Government and pursuing aggressive military rhetoric against Georgia, Russia will hardly manage to change the perception of Tbilisi that Russia is a hostile State.

Tbilisi, 7 February 2011

Annex II to the identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the so-called local elections conducted by the proxy regime in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 12 February 2011

On 12 February 2011, the proxy regime operating in the Russian-occupied region of Abkhazia, Georgia, conducted so-called local elections. Considering the fact that, as a result of ethnic cleansing executed in Abkhazia, the overwhelming majority of the local population was expelled from the places of original residence, this pseudo-democratic political act represents yet another cynical attempt to mislead the international community.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the so-called elections in the Russian-occupied region of Abkhazia and views them as another step towards legitimization of the outcome of the ethnic cleansing. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community to make an adequate assessment of the illegal elections.

Tbilisi, 14 February 2011

United Nations S/2011/82

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2011
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 15 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the item entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409)" relating to the question of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, should be retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized for the year 2011 and until such time as the dispute is resolved by peaceful means through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice, thereby ensuring a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the issue and achieving peace, security and regional and international stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed Abdulrahman **Al-Jarman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-24088 (E) 220211 220211

Please recycle

United Nations A/65/754–S/2011/83

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2011
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 22 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a complaint against Israeli enemy forces which, on 10 February 2011, violated Lebanese territorial integrity (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-24187 (E) 240211 250211

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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At precisely 7.30 a.m. on Thursday, 10 February 2011, an Israeli enemy patrol crossed the technical fence separating the area of the occupied Shab'a Farms with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim from the liberated area on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba, penetrating some 20 metres into Lebanese territory. It remained there for some time before withdrawing into the occupied Shab'a Farms. This incident constitutes a flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty, Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and a threat to international peace and security.